

Phone: 66 2228  
P.O. Box 474

St. Nicholas' Presbytery,  
229 Marius Street,  
Tamworth, 2340.

10 March, 1988.

Most Rev. H.J. Kennedy,  
Bishop of Armidale,  
Bishop's House,  
ARMIDALE, 2350.

My Lord,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 19 February. I thank you for writing to me expressing your happiness about the outcome of happenings in Narrabri.

Sadly, I must inform you that the happenings have left me a nervous wreck. I am a broken man. The doctor has prescribed medication, but has also indicated that healing will take a long time.

The Vicar General re-appointed me to Tamworth for 'light duties', clarified as weekend Masses only, in order that I may be seen as vindicated. The question of the future was not addressed. I am writing to offer my suggestion regarding my future.

In short, I would like to go on study leave until December. There are many benefits to this suggestion. I have outlined them on the attached page.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Farrell". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

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PROPOSAL FROM JOHN FARRELL RE JOHN FARRELL

1. Proposal: Study leave for the 1988 Academic Year, ie March to December.
2. Campus: The University of New England.
3. Courses: Sufficient to complete a Bachelor of Arts Degree.
4. Residence: Bishop's House, Armidale.
5. Cost to the Diocese: None. I will pay the Administration Fees, and Subscriptions.
6. Wages: To be paid by Armidale Diocesan Clerical Salary & Retirement Fund, at Assistant Priest's rate.
7. Weekend Supply: At Tamworth for the time being.

REASON.

I am not convinced that matters have ended. Mgr Ryan informed me that an official made enquiries in Moree. There is no guarantee that there will be no repeat of the last eight months. Gaining a degree will ensure I have job security, should it happen that I am precluded from exercising Ministry.

Secondly, I am unfit to exercise Ministry at present. Studying will have a therapeutic effect.

Thirdly, there will be benefits to the Diocese. For instance, I will be qualified as an historian. Writing history is rapidly becoming important in all institutes, including the Church. Also, my degree will refute claims that the clergy are uneducated.